

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

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WFA SUBSIDY PROGRAM WILL COVER NEW PACK PEA SALES

Canners May Continue to Use Prices
Listed in MPR 306 until New
Price Order is Issued

Many canners have asked how they may sell new pack peas before the 1944 pricing regulation is issued. The 1943 prices, as authorized by Maximum Price Regulation No. 306, will continue in effect until revoked by the new price regulation. Consequently, new pack peas may now be sold at the prices listed in MPR 306, that is, at 1943 prices. It should be pointed out, however, that the prices did not reflect in 1943 the full support price for peas, the difference having been made up by subsidy payments from Commodity Credit Corporation. Thus, sales of new pack peas made at 1943 prices will not reflect the full cost of raw peas this year. It is understood, however, that a subsidy program will be issued shortly that will permit canners who sell new pack peas at the 1943 prices to apply for a subsidy payment, which will be about the same as the payment made last year, but expressed in cents per dozen cans rather than in dollars per ton of raw product.

First announcement of this plan was made by Lee Marshall, Director of Distribution of the War Food Administration, speaking at the mid-year meeting of the Association's Board of Directors on May 25, and reported in the INFORMATION LETTER for May 27.

The amount of this subsidy has not been revealed, but the increase in the raw product prices, when converted to cents per dozen cans, would figure approximately 10 cents per dozen.

Permission has been granted the Army to buy new pack peas and adjust the price to that authorized by the new price regulations, as reported in last week's INFORMATION LETTER, and commented on further elsewhere in this issue. Canners may not, however, sell

As the LETTER went to press the directive authorizing these subsidies was reported to be awaiting the signature of the Director of Economic Stabilization.

to the civilian trade on the basis of adjusting the price to any regulation that may be issued later.

These pricing regulations do not prohibit canners from shipping peas to another warehouse provided the canner retains clear title to the merchandise.

Although this year's program for canned vegetables will be operated on a processed basis instead of on the raw product basis used last year, its primary objective is the same as the purchase and resale program operated last year.

SALES TO GOVERNMENT

Army Acts to Permit Purchases at
Prices to be Revised Later

On June 26, the Office of Price Administration issued Order No. 56, under Maximum Price Regulation No. 306, which provided that insofar as the OPA was concerned processors might lawfully sell peas, snap beans, corn, tomatoes, and tomato products of the new pack to the Government at prices which could be adjusted when the OPA ceiling prices for this year's pack are established. (See INFORMATION LETTER No. 992, July 1, 1944, p. 828.)

Some question existed whether the Army Regulations would have permitted the Army to purchase canned foods subject to an escalator clause permitting later upward revision of price. After consideration of this question, the Army has issued instructions to the various Quartermaster Depots that purchases of canned foods by the Army shall be made at the present ceiling prices under MPR 306 and that the purchase contract may include a clause authorizing the contract price to be later adjusted in accordance with subsequent changes in the OPA maximum price for canned foods. This is authorized under a recent amendment to the Army Regulations. The new adjustable pricing clause will apply only to purchases of canned fruits, berries and vegetables by the Army.

The text of the new clause will be printed in next week's INFORMATION LETTER.

WMC STATEMENT ON CANNERY MANPOWER

Stresses Necessity for Recruit-
ment of Volunteer Workers
to Pack 1944 Fruits and
Vegetables

The War Manpower Commission has issued a public statement dealing with manpower needs and the recruitment of emergency aid for the canning industry. Text of the WMC statement, released to the newspapers on July 6, follows:

"Approximately 1,400,000 part-time or 700,000 full-time workers must be recruited for the canning of millions of tons of fruits and vegetables this summer, Paul V. McNutt, Chairman of the War Manpower Commission, reported today.

"Although a plentiful crop of fruits and vegetables appears certain, a large part of it will go to waste unless the manpower necessary for processing can be recruited, Mr. McNutt said. Because of the demand for workers in other essential industries, the employment situation in food processing—mostly canning—is extremely critical in many fruit and vegetable growing centers, he added.

"Mr. McNutt said it is necessary this year more than any year during the war for housewives and youths to volunteer to pack the perishable fruits and vegetables. Soldiers overseas use canned fruits and vegetables to a far greater extent than when stationed in the United States because fresh fruits and vegetables are not readily available abroad, he said. The vast increase in the number of our overseas armed forces makes it imperative that all of these vegetables shall be processed, the WMC chairman said.

"The farmer," said Mr. McNutt, "has done a good job of planting. Weather conditions in most areas have been favorable so far and we will likely have bumper crops in some localities. But, how much of these crops we are able to use by canning, depends to a large extent on the number of volunteers, men, women, boys, and girls, who are willing to go into the canneries to work this summer."

"Some of the manpower needs in the food processing industry, by States, are as follows: Arkansas, 11,000; California, 125,000; Delaware, 5,500; Georgia,

5,000; Illinois, 15,000; Indiana, 30,000; Maine, 11,000; Maryland, 30,000; Michigan, 10,500; Minnesota, 15,000; New Jersey, 20,000; Ohio, 17,000; Oregon, 23,000; Pennsylvania, 15,000; Virginia, 13,000; Washington, 21,000; Wisconsin, 22,000.

"The U. S. Employment Service, the WMC chairman said, is placing a considerably larger number of persons in food processing jobs than it did last year. Up to May 1 this year, USES placed 140,000 persons in food processing as against 66,000 for the corresponding period last year.

"Manpower needs in canning will be filled by recruitment drives in every major canning area of the country, Mr. McNutt said.

"Upwards of 25,000 prisoners of war will be available to supplement local labor forces in the harvesting and processing of fruits and vegetables. They will be assigned to the heavier tasks which are a part of canning plant operations and their work will supplement the work of regular cannery employees and volunteers."

Col. Collins Given WMC Post

Lt. Col. John K. Collins, chief of the labor branch headquarters, Army service forces, since December, 1943, became Director of the Bureau of Placement of the War Manpower Commission on July 1, WMC has announced.

A native of Kokomo, Ind., Lt. Col. Collins formerly worked for Armour & Company, Chicago, the Indiana State Employment Service, and the U. S. Employment Service.

Pea Acreage for 1944

The acreage of green peas sown for canning in 1944 totals 400,400 acres, according to statistics compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. This compares with a total of 433,223 acres planted in 1943.

The following table is based on reports from all canners known to have planted peas this year, along with estimates for four canners not reporting:

State	Alaskas Acres	1943		1944	
		Sweets Acres	Alaskas Acres	Early Sweets Acres	Late Sweets Acres
Maine.....		2,800		1,100	1,000
New York.....	370	18,272	792	12,661	13,466
Maryland.....	11,886	3,669	9,914	1,821	1,039
Delaware and New Jersey.....	4,088	5,716	2,885	95	3,250
Pennsylvania.....	9,533	5,704	7,964	4,145	3,843
Ohio.....	6,220	1,587	4,977	415	1,453
Indiana.....	11,654	1,185	7,135	50	140
Illinois.....	7,526	13,890	5,490	3,767	8,139
Michigan.....	2,100	5,000	4,150	1,200	3,000
Wisconsin.....	94,132	69,338	84,278	18,306	44,628
Minnesota.....	13,413	22,555	10,919	1,610	19,166
Utah and Idaho.....	724	16,829	143	3,562	12,370
Washington and Oregon.....	16,708	60,448	10,285	18,535	52,290
Other States.....	12,017	14,955	8,781	8,295	7,681
Total.....	190,371	242,852	157,603	70,468	172,308

Cold Pack Canners Extension

The date by which the 500,000 enamelled cold pack canners scheduled for production in 1944 may be completed has been extended from July 1 to October 1, 1944, through the War Production Board's amendment of Direction 1 to Limitation Order L-30-b.

Rotenone, Pyrethrum Ceiling Prices are Increased by OPA

Increases in present ceiling prices of rotenone and pyrethrum products have been announced by the Office of Price Administration so as to maintain maximum importation of the raw roots and flowers for processing in this country into essential insecticide products. This is accomplished through a revision of Maximum Price Regulation 298, effective July 5. Price increases start with the ceiling price of the raw materials landed in this country, and are passed on through primary products to semi-finished and finished insecticides.

The price of rotenone roots landed in this country is raised to 25 cents a pound, or a 3-cent-per-pound increase, and to avert hardship to the rotenone processing industry, its ceiling on pure rotenone powder has been raised from 25 cents a pound to 40 cents. Similar adjustment has been made in prices of other semi-finished and finished rotenone products. The revised maximum price regulation includes also pyrethrum products, previously covered by provisions of the General Maximum Price Regulation.

It is said that the increased ceiling will afford domestic processors relief from the squeeze between rising costs and fixed selling prices, and will make it unnecessary for the Foreign Economic Administration to continue its subsidy on raw materials costs.

CARROT, PEAR ADJUSTMENT

Affects Sales, Deliveries to Government Agencies from the 1943 Pack

Price adjustments for canned carrots and canned pears out of 1943 packs are provided for in Order 57 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 306, issued by the Office of Price Administration and effective July 5. The order provides processors with compensation for additional transportation and inspection costs incurred in shipment of the raw product to be processed for sales to certain government agencies. Text of Order 57 follows:

It is ordered: (a) That for sales and deliveries of the 1943 pack of packed carrots processed and packed by processors for the purpose of filling orders of the Lend-lease Administration, the War Food Administration or the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay to such processors and such processors may receive, in addition to the maximum prices otherwise prescribed for sales of the commodity to government procurement agencies, amounts sufficient to compensate such processors for additional transportation and inspection charges respectively incurred in the shipment of raw carrots to processors' factories from growing areas other than those normally served by such factories and incurred at the specific request of the War Food Administration.

(b) That for sales and deliveries of the 1943 pack of packed pears processed and packed by processors for the purpose of relieving an acute fresh pear surplus and for the purpose of conserving this essential food supply, the War Food Administration or the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay to such processors and such processors may receive, in addition to the maximum prices otherwise prescribed for sales of the commodity to government procurement agencies, an amount sufficient to compensate such processors for the additional transportation and buying expenses respectively incurred in the shipment of the fresh pears to processors' factories from growing areas other than those normally served by such factories and incurred at the specific request of the War Food Administration.

(c) This order shall apply to sales and deliveries made on and after March 1, 1944.

(d) This order may be revoked or amended by the Price Administrator at any time.

Tri-State Mid-year Meeting

The Tri-State Packers' Association has scheduled its mid-year meeting for July 17 at the Talbot Country Club, Easton, Md. That date being the birthday of the late Cassius M. Dashiell, former secretary of the association, it was selected to honor his memory.

SALTED FISH ALLOCATION

Larger Quantities will be Permitted Qualified Importers this Year

Qualified importers will receive somewhat larger quantities of salted fish this year than in 1943, according to quotas announced by the War Food Administration for the 1944 pack.

The new quotas are contained in Amendment 2 to War Food Order 72, which regulates the importation of salted fish, and follows closely the pattern established by the allocation of the 1943 pack.

Effective June 29, each qualified importer may proceed to import his 1944 quota of salted cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, ling and saithe, the allocations being established at 60 per cent of the quantity he imported in 1942 from Canada, 65 per cent of the quantity he imported in 1942 from Newfoundland and 70 per cent of the quantity he imported in 1942 from Iceland. Importers who in 1942 imported salted fish from Iceland will get their quotas from Greenland.

Last year importers were allocated 55 per cent of the same species of salted fish which they received from Canada or Newfoundland in 1942 and 20 per cent of their 1942 imports from Iceland.

Under the amended order, persons who wish to qualify for a quota must file a claim with the Director of Distribution, War Food Administration, and submit certain factual information regarding their importations of salted fish in the calendar years 1942, 1943, and in 1944, prior to the effective date of the amended order. Certain importers who obtain their quotas from Newfoundland and all importers obtaining their quotas from Greenland must contract for the purchase of their entire quotas before July 31, 1944, and submit a copy of the contract. Failure to comply with these requirements would result in the nonallocation of quotas.

Importations to meet the requirements of specified Government agencies will be quota-exempt as before. WFA has been designated as the sole agency to import salted fish for the requirements of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

New Brunswick Sardine Catch

An all-time record catch of 20,000 hogsheads of sardine was taken by New Brunswick, Canada, fishermen during the January-April period, according to the Department of Commerce.

Use of Sugar-containing Items

Changes in the provisions which cover the control of imported sugar-containing products have been announced by the Office of Price Administration, in Amendment 29 to Revised Ration Order No. 13, which became effective June 30.

Three of the changes relate to reports from institutional and industrial users of these products.

Institutional users will report on their use of imported sugar-containing products every two months instead of quarterly, because they receive their allotments on that basis. Industrial users will continue to report their use on a quarterly basis, since they receive their allotments on that basis.

So that the OPA district office may have complete records regarding the amount of imported sugar-containing products industrial and institutional users are permitted to use, any imported sugar-containing products in their possession or in transit to them on May 1, 1944, must also be reported.

Persons who import or receive these products from a Collector of Customs must also report the amount in their possession May 1, 1944. This information will give a more accurate check on the distribution of the imports, OPA said.

Additional Sugar is Allotted for Whole, Unpeeled Apricots

Packers of whole unpeeled apricots will be given extra sugar this year for use in canning, the Office of Price Administration announced, in issuing Amendment 31 to Revised Ration Order No. 3, which became effective July 7.

Because of shortages of labor in packing plants, OPA said, many more whole unpeeled apricots will be canned than in normal years. Packing the fruit unpeeled requires the use of more sugar, but it eliminates the work of peeling and halving, and permits the packer to make the best possible use of the labor available.

The additional sugar to be authorized is 1.3 pounds per case for Fancy grade, one pound per case for Choice grade and six-tenths of a pound per case for Standard grade for each case of whole unpeeled apricots packed this year in excess of the pack of the same grade in the 1941 canning season.

This extra sugar is granted in addition to the usual provisional allowance of sugar the packer receives.

PILCHARD PRODUCTION

Federal Control to be Continued for Season Commencing August 1

Pilchards will again be under Federal control in the 1944-45 season beginning August 1, according to an order issued July 2 by Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes.

The Coordinated Pilchard Production Plan under which the industry will operate in the new season does not differ materially from the plan which was in effect last season. This year, however, licenses will be required for purse seiners fishing from Alaskan ports as well as those of Washington, Oregon, and California. These licenses are being required this year so that the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries may transfer suitable vessels from the halibut fishery to that for pilchards. The halibut catch is under international regulation and the full quantity can be obtained by the normal halibut fleet without additional fishing by purse seiners. Every year a number of purse seiners remain in North Pacific waters engaged in halibut fishing, going south to fish for pilchards only when the halibut season is ended. Since the halibut season was late in starting this year, it is feared that the purse seiners may be as many as ten weeks late in entering the pilchard fishery. This would cause a possible loss of 11,000 tons of pilchards, the coordinator's office estimated.

Last season, vessel owners violating the order could only be suspended from fishing, a remedy which tended to defeat the purpose of the order. This year violators will be given a choice between keeping their vessels out of production or making certain payments to the United States Treasury.

The Office of Coordinator of Fisheries exercises authority over the production and processing of fish under the terms of War Food Order No. 52, issued February 8, 1943, and amended March 16, 1943.

Potato Support Date Advanced

The beginning of the price-support period for potatoes grown in New Mexico and West Texas has been advanced by the War Food Administration from July 25 to July 5 due to an earlier harvest than was expected in those areas. This action, which further amends the 1944 potato price-support program as announced March 31, extends the price-support period in those two States from 30 to 60 days.

PURCHASE OF NEW TRUCKS

ODT Outlines Procedure for Rationing of Vehicles under New Program

Issuance of certificates for purchase of new trucks and similar vehicles was started by the Office of Defense Transportation July 5 under a new program which transfers the rationing of new trucks from the War Production Board to ODT.

All types of commercial motor vehicles, including trucks, truck tractors and trailers, are embraced in the rationing program, with the exception that attachment third axles and dollies are exempt from further rationing at this time, by mutual agreement between WPB and ODT.

Procedure for obtaining new equipment, specified in General Order ODT 44 and Administrative Order ODT 27, remains the same as previously with few exceptions. A major change provides for filing applications through the 142 district ODT offices throughout the country, instead of the 80 offices maintained by the Bureau of Motor Carriers of the Interstate Commerce Commission, as reported in the July 1 issue of the LETTER.

Anyone desiring to obtain a new commercial motor vehicle must file an application for a certificate of transfer with the ODT district office nearest to his home office or principal place of business. The application form will be provided by ODT, but it will be permissible to use Form WPB-633 until September 1, 1944.

The usage classification list employed by WPB will continue in effect. The district ODT manager will recommend approval of an application only after determining that the new vehicle will be used by the applicant in his business and within the area indicated in his application. It is necessary also that the vehicle be devoted, without undue delay, to uses directly related to the war effort or essential civilian service.

Upon receipt of an application and after prompt investigation, the district manager will either recommend approval or disapprove it. Approved applications will be forwarded to the ODT Highway Transport Department in Washington for final action. Those disapproved will be returned to the applicants. Local appeal boards are established to consider appeals from decisions of district managers disapproving applications. When a local appeal board sustains the decision of a district manager, its decision is final, it was stated.

The Assistant Director, ODT Highway Transport Department, may dis-

approve an application, if lack of available vehicles or any provision of the rationing order warrants. A new application may not be filed until three months after disapproval of an original application.

A vehicle purchased for use in transporting property may not be transferred to any other person or converted to any other use than originally specified, within six months from date of purchase, without written ODT approval. The only exception deals with short-term leases not exceeding ten days.

Tire Tubes now Ration-free

All new tubes—passenger car, truck, tractor, implement—have been removed from rationing, the Office of Price Administration announces. This action was taken with the concurrence of the Office of Rubber Director, in Amendment 78 to Ration Order IA, which became effective July 1.

Since December, 1942, certificates for new tubes have been issued for practically all vehicles and equipment upon proof of need. For the last two months no quotas have been placed on the issuance of these certificates and the demand has been running at the rate of approximately 1,500,000 tubes per month. Present inventories and production are adequate to meet this demand, OPA said.

This move eliminates the necessity of persons needing new tubes to apply to their local War Price and Rationing Board. It also aids in the conservation of tires, since a good tube properly inflated prolongs the life of a tire. This is particularly important at this time during the extreme shortage of civilian truck tires, OPA pointed out.

Potash, Superphosphate Supply

The War Food Administration expects that additional amounts of potash and superphosphate will be available for 1944-45, and hopes that shipping will be available to increase supplies of nitrogen.

Although production of fertilizers is classed as essential work by the War Manpower Commission, the distribution of fertilizer is not so classed. WFA officials urge farmers to help manufacturers make the best possible use of the materials available by ordering supplies early, accepting early delivery, and by doing as much of their own fertilizer hauling as possible.

FOOD, DRUG STANDARDS

Exclusive Character of Standards of Identity Under Food, Drug Law Sustained by Court

Recently the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York decided that where a standard of identity promulgated under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act fails to include a particular ingredient, the use of such ingredient is prohibited. The particular case involved tomato catsup, to which had been added one-tenth of one per cent of benzoate of soda, and which had been labeled, "Tomato Catsup With Preservative," all in the same size of type. Upon seizure of the goods, the claimant argued that this was a different product from tomato catsup for which a standard of identity had been promulgated with the inclusion of the optional ingredient, benzoate of soda. It was likewise urged that the failure to include benzoate of soda made the standard unreasonable.

The Court concluded that the tomato catsup with preservative was a product which purported to be tomato catsup, pursuant to Section 403(g)(1) of the Act; that the exclusion of this optional ingredient was not unreasonable; and that hence the use of the ingredient was barred. This confirms the "Exclusive Appropriation Theory" upon which the standards of identity for those canned fruits and vegetables already standardized were issued.

Fertilizer Order is Amended

Reflecting prospects for somewhat larger supplies of fertilizer in the year beginning July 1, 1944, particularly phosphates and potash, the War Food Administration has eliminated crop classifications and made several other changes in War Food Order 5, affecting fertilizers. These changes in the order are effected through Amendment 1.

There will be no A and B crop classes this year, which will permit a higher rate of application on a large number of crops. Effective July 1, all general crops may be fertilized with as many pounds of fertilizer per acre as is recommended by the appropriate State Experiment Station, or at the rate customarily used in the area, whichever is greater. The rate of application per acre, as used in the order, refers to pounds of fertilizer but does not specify plant food content in terms of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash.

OPA Amendment Specifies New Pricing for Cucumber Pickles

A new method of pricing pickles made from fresh cucumbers was announced July 5 by the Office of Price Administration in issuing Amendment 30 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 306, effective July 10. It will mean lower ceiling prices for a substantial amount of the fresh cucumber pickle production and will result in an over-all reduction of a few cents per quart jar at retail.

Under this action, a processor of fresh cucumber pickles determines the weighted average price per dozen containers, f. o. b. factory, which he charged for the same item during the first 60 days after the beginning of the 1941 pack. To that he adds eight per cent, to cover cost increases other than for cucumbers, and an increase for fresh cucumber costs at the rate of 40 cents per bushel. This allowance covers increases in parity levels on fresh cucumbers for processing since 1941.

Increases allowed by the former method covered actual increases in the processor's cost of cucumbers. Thus, processors who bought on the open market at high prices could include disproportionate increases of those high prices in computing their ceiling prices.

By allowing addition of increased parity only, the new price action will scale down the ceilings of these processors. It will also maintain normal distribution between fresh and salt brined cucumber pickles, it was stated.

Table-use Sweet Cherry Price

The higher maximum prices for sweet cherries for table use, in effect at country shipping points from the beginning of the season until the middle of June, will apply for the rest of the season instead of the ceilings originally named for that period, the Office of Price Administration announced in issuing Amendment 37 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 426.

The action restoring the higher maximum prices, effective July 2, 1944, was taken, OPA said, because unfavorable weather in Washington and Oregon has caused lowered yield and consequent increased production costs. The f. o. b. ceilings which will apply for the rest of the season are:

Canned Pea Committee Meets

At the invitation of the Office of Price Administration, members of the Canned Pea Industry Advisory Committee have been meeting this week in Washington to discuss the application of the pricing methods for 1944 packs of this product previously announced by OPA. Similar meetings on red cherries, asparagus and spinach have already been held.

Authority to Pay Raw Product Brokers is Granted by OPA

Authority has been given regional or district offices of the Office of Price Administration to allow payment of usual fees by processors of fresh fruits, berries and vegetables to brokers who obtain the raw materials, if this has been a customary practice, the OPA said July 5, in issuing Amendment No. 5 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 425, effective July 10.

The action also empowers OPA regional and district offices to announce by order what and where processors' actual customary receiving points are.

These offices will now issue orders allowing processors to pay an agent his unusual fees in addition to paying the maximum price to the supplier, if it is found that a substantial number of processors within their area customarily employ brokers to obtain raw materials for them.

This action is necessary, OPA said, because processors' ceiling prices are based on figures which, in many cases, include buying expenses. If the broker is not paid by the processor, the effect is to increase the processor's normal margin by the amount of the commission or fee.

Similarly, if regional or district offices find it generally true that processors have not customarily maintained their own facilities for grading, weighing, repacking and loading at their customary receiving points, the offices may, by order, announce that the regulation's maximum prices may be paid for delivery to their customary receiving point even though facilities for grading, weighing, repacking and loading are not maintained at that point.

ALUMINUM FOR CANS

7 Million Pounds Available for Experiments with Containers, Chiefly Non-food Items

About 7,000,000 pounds of aluminum will be made available on application during the third quarter of this year for experimental use in the manufacture of specified food and non-food cans, the War Production Board said July 3.

Specified products that may be packed in the aluminum cans are:

Baking powder, cereal beverages and soluble coffee, lard, cocoa, malted milk powder, ointment and salve boxes, tobacco, tablet boxes, snuff, tooth powder and pretzels, crackers, biscuits and potato chips.

Direction 4 to Can Conservation Order M-81 establishes this new use of aluminum and also provides that container manufacturers, who wish to make aluminum cans for some product not specified, may apply to WPB for an aluminum allotment.

Application to make aluminum cans for any product, specified or non-specified, must be made by the can manufacturer, and must state:

1. The product to be packed in aluminum cans.

2. Quantity of steel used by the applicant to make cans for that product during the third quarter of 1941.

As moderate quantities of aluminum are now relatively more available than sheet steel, the third quarter of 1944 is considered a suitable time to permit some experimentation with aluminum cans, WPB said. Production will not be authorized in any case where there is possibility of interference with war production.

Burdick Succeeds Straub As OPA Food Rationing Director

The appointment of Ivan Burdick as acting director of the Office of Price Administration's food rationing division has been announced. Mr. Burdick succeeds Walter F. Straub who resigned to re-enter private business.

Mr. Burdick came with the OPA soon after it was created and has served in a number of important posts in that agency. Before going to OPA, Mr. Burdick was connected with The Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company and the Old Dominion Stores, Ltd., of Canada.

Mr. Straub, the originator of OPA's token program, is returning to the Chicago Food and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company of which he is president.

	Per pound	Campbell lug (California)	14½-18½ lbs. (All other States)	Cans lug lbs.	Fruit box lbs.
Interstate sales.....	25¢	\$4.00	\$3.75	\$4.75	\$5.00
Intrastate sales.....	20½¢	3.28	3.08	3.90	4.10

Maximum Wages for Picking and Cutting Peaches in California Areas

In an order issued by the War Food Administration's Director of Labor, maximum wage rates have been established for workers engaged in picking and cutting peaches in certain California counties.

The areas affected by the order (Specific Wage Ceiling Regulation No. 19) are designated as A, B, and C. Area A consists of Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera and Merced counties, and the portion of Stanislaus county lying west of the San Joaquin River. Area B takes in Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Yuba, Sutter, Colusa, Sonoma, Napa, Yolo, Solano, Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Contra Costa and San Joaquin counties; the portion of Stanislaus county lying east of the San Joaquin River and the portion of Santa Clara county lying south of the town of Coyote. Area C is the portion of Santa Clara county lying north of the town of Coyote.

The maximum wage rates are as follows:

Area A—Tree picking freestone peaches for market: Piece rate, \$8 per ton; hourly rate, 75 cents per hour.

Apricot Cutting, Picking Wage

Specific Wage Ceiling Regulation No. 13 has been amended to include maximum wage rates for cutting as well as for tree picking apricots in certain California counties. The original order gave the maximum picking rates. In the amendment, the maximum cutting rates are listed as follows:

Area A—Piece-work rate, \$15 per ton; hourly rate, 75 cents per hour.

Area B—Piece-work rate, \$16 per ton; hourly rate, 80 cents per hour.

Area C—Piece-work rate, \$16 per ton; hourly rate, 85 cents per hour.

If workers are paid on other than a tonnage basis, the compensation must be equivalent to these rates. The rates specified are exclusive of any payments to labor contractors. Area A consists of Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera and Merced counties and the portion of Stanislaus county lying west of the San Joaquin River. Area B takes in Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Yuba, Sutter, Colusa, Contra Costa, Napa, Yolo, Solano, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties, the portion of Stanislaus county lying east of the San Joaquin River, and the portion of Santa Clara county lying south of the town of Coyote. Area C is Alameda county and the portion of Santa Clara county lying north of the town of Coyote.

Tree picking freestone peaches for drying or canning: Piece rate, \$6 per ton; hourly rate, 75 cents per hour. Tree picking clingstone peaches: Piece rate, \$6 per ton; hourly rate, 75 cents per hour. Cutting of freestone peaches for drying: Piece rate, \$6 per ton; hourly rate, 75 cents per hour.

Area B—Tree picking freestone peaches for market: Piece rate, \$8 per ton; hourly rate, 80 cents per hour. Tree picking freestone peaches for drying or canning: Piece rate, \$6 per ton; hourly rate, 80 cents per hour. Tree picking clingstone peaches: Piece rate, \$6 per ton; hourly rate, 80 cents per hour. Cutting of freestone peaches for drying: Piece rate, \$6 per ton; hourly rate, 80 cents per hour.

Area C—Tree picking freestone peaches for market: Piece rate, \$8 per ton; hourly rate, 85 cents per hour. Tree picking freestone peaches for drying or canning: Piece rate \$6 per ton; hourly rate, 85 cents per hour. Tree picking clingstone peaches: Piece rate, \$6 per ton; hourly rate, 85 cents per hour. Cutting of freestone peaches for drying: Piece rate, \$6 per ton; hourly rate, 85 cents per hour.

If workers are paid on other than a tonnage basis, the compensation is not to exceed the equivalent of the rates specified. Another provision of the order is that the specified rates are exclusive of any payments to labor contractors.

The order will be administered by the California WFA Wage Board, 2181 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, in accordance with the specific wage ceiling regulations issued by the War Food Administrator January 20, 1944.

Fibre Container Allocation

Sheet plants manufacturing fibre containers may accept deliveries of corrugated and solid fibre sheets against second quarter orders and authorizations even if the sheets were not received before June 30, 1944, or were not in transit on that date, according to Direction 4 to Conservation Order M-290 recently issued by the War Production Board Paper Division.

Allocations authorized in the second quarter may be delivered and accepted after July 1, it was explained, provided sheet plants placed their orders with their suppliers before June 20 and were entitled to the tonnage involved for the quarter ended June 30, 1944.

It is necessary that the corrugated or solid fibre sheets be made from containerboard delivered or in transit to the sheet supplier prior to July 1, 1944, under a certified purchase order, the direction points out.

Dried Apricot, Peach and Pear Support Prices Named

Grower support prices for natural condition dried apricots, peaches, and pears were announced June 30 by the War Food Administration in order to encourage the maximum production of dried fruits for essential war needs.

The prices, which the WFA will support through an offer to purchase from growers, are as follows:

Dried fruit	Per ton
Apricots (average of all types, grades and sizes).....	\$560
Pears:	
Lake County quality.....	360
Others.....	330
Peaches:	
Clingstone.....	330
Freestone.....	440

The support program for these fruits is similar to that in effect during the 1942 and 1943 seasons. The entire pack of these dried fruits will be set aside by packers to meet government requirements. However, in view of the anticipated large production of dried apricots, it is probable that substantial supplies of this commodity will be released for civilians. Because of the high government requirements for these dried fruits only very small quantities have been released for civilian consumption during the past two years.

Wholesale Inventory Factor

The processed foods wholesale inventory factor for the reporting period beginning July 30 and ending September 2, 1944, will be 4.5, the Office of Price Administration has announced in issuing Amendment 20 to Revised Supplement 1 to Revised Ration Order No. 13, which became effective July 7. The factor for the period ending July 29 is 3.5.

For the "August" period, the maximum allowable inventory may be obtained by adding together the point sales and transfers of the wholesalers during the "April," "May" and "June" periods, and dividing by three to obtain the average. This is then multiplied by the factor 4 1/2, the result being the wholesaler's maximum allowable inventory.

The increase in the factor is in keeping with assurance given by OPA in May that the point purchasing power of wholesalers would be increased to enable them to acquire more new pack merchandise for fall and winter, than they have been getting in recent months.

WFA Invites Offers of Dry Powdered Citrus, Apple Pectin

The War Food Administration announces that purchases by the Commodity Credit Corporation of a quantity of dry powdered citrus or apple pectin, 100 or 150 grade, are contemplated and that offers for the sale of this product, which must have been produced in the United States, may now be submitted.

Contracts will be on a per pound basis for the finished product, including all cost of materials, labor and packages, f.o.b. vendor's plant.

Offers must be submitted on prescribed Offer Form PB-132 in an original and four signed copies addressed to Procurement and Price Support Branch, Office of Distribution, War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C. All offers will be considered currently as received and notice of acceptance or rejection will be given by telegram filed at Washington, D. C. not later than midnight, EWT, on the fifteenth day following the date of offer.

OPA Corrects Berry Prices

The Office of Price Administration has issued a correction of its announcement of the terms of Amendment No. 33 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 426 (fresh berries), which was published in last week's INFORMATION LETTER. Text of the OPA correction follows:

In OPA-4476, advance release for Friday morning papers, June 30, 1944, covering Amendment No. 33 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 426, there are several errors in the table at the top of Page 2 of the release. This table should read as follows:

F.o.b. shipping point prices, by the quart, pint and pound (for the entire season) are:

	Pint	Cents	Quart	Cents	Pound
Red raspberries, Zone I and II.....	21	40½	27		
Zone III.....	14	27	18		
Black raspberries, Zone I and II.....	19	37½	25		
Zone III.....	13	24	16		
Blackberries and dewberries, Zone I and II	14	27	18		
Zone III.....	12	22½	15		

Wooden Boxes for Citrus

Commercial growers of oranges and grapefruit in California and Arizona who limit their shipment in new wooden containers to 92 per cent during the quarters beginning May 1 and August 1, 1944, will not be required to comply with the restriction that not more than 96 per cent of these fruits may be

packed or shipped in new or used wooden containers, the War Production Board has announced.

This change was effected by the issuance of an amendment to Supplemental Order L-232-a. The percentage of oranges and grapefruit that may be packed and shipped in new wooden containers was said not to include shipments intended for canning, making juice or other processing.

The use of wooden containers in transportation of these fruits from field to packing sheds or from there to trucks or freight cars for the purpose of bulk shipping, is not considered as "shipping" under the order, WPB pointed out.

WFA Terminates Pear Order

War Food Orders 65 and 65.1, which restricted shipments of fresh Bartlett and Beurre Hardy pears from Washington, Oregon, and California during the 1943 season, were terminated by the War Food Administration, effective 12:01 a. m., e. w. t., July 1, 1944. The orders were issued last year to prevent undue diversion from processing into fresh market channels.

Pricing of 1944 Dry Onions

Pricing of the 1944 crop of dry onions was completed July 5 with announcement by the Office of Price Administration of maximum prices for intermediate and late seasons, specified in Amendment 17 to Revised Maximum Price Regulation No. 271.

The prices, which become effective July 10, apply from July 16, 1944, to the end of the crop.

Dollar and cent mark-ups for distributive services prior to retail are the same as those now in effect. The new ceilings are in accord with a directive issued by the Office of Economic Stabilization which authorized prices that would reflect to growers a yearly average of \$2.99 per hundred pounds.

The f. o. b. ceilings for onions are stated in dollars and cents per 50 pounds with variations for major producing areas of the country and with variations from month to month, depending upon crop volume.

The new ceilings, like those for early 1944 onions, eliminate the requirement that onions be graded and do away with payment of a premium for higher grades. This change is made, OPA said, because official grading services are unavailable in many parts of the country.

Adjustable Pricing for Large Sizes of 1944 Frozen Foods

Packers may sell certain larger size containers of frozen asparagus, spinach, peas and strawberries of the 1944 pack under an "adjustable pricing" order issued July 5 by the Office of Price Administration.

The order (Order No. 27 under Section 9 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 409) permits sales of the specified commodities at prices that may be adjusted later in conformity with OPA's 1944 ceiling prices for the four items.

Object of the order, OPA said, is to encourage packers to move out stocks of newly packed commodities and thus free badly needed storage space.

Effective July 5, this pricing arrangement does not apply to small, consumer-size containers but is limited to frozen asparagus and spinach in containers of 2½ pounds or more and to frozen peas and strawberries in containers of five pounds or more.

Canned Milk Statistics

May production of evaporated milk, case goods, is estimated at 417,500,000 pounds, a seasonal increase of 31 per cent above the April production, 11 per cent larger than in May, 1943, and 29 per cent over the 5-year (1938-42) May average production. With the exception of 1942, the May output was the largest of record, and only 6 per cent below the May, 1942, record production.

Manufacturers' stocks of evaporated milk, case goods, totaled 241,012,000 pounds on June 1, up 33 per cent from a month earlier, but 5 per cent lower than on June 1 last year and 2 per cent below the 5-year June 1 average. This is the first time this year that manufacturers' stocks of canned evaporated milk have been lower than on the comparable date last year.

Output of canned condensed milk, estimated at 17,250,000 pounds for May, also made a sharp seasonal increase of 34 per cent over April, was 54 per cent higher than in May last year and 204 per cent over the 5-year May average. The cumulative production during the first 5 months of this year (January through May) was 6 per cent larger for evaporated milk and 19 per cent larger for canned condensed milk, than in the first 5 months of 1943.

Stocks of canned condensed milk totaled 12,908,000 pounds on June 1, an increase of 54 per cent during the month of May, 42 per cent larger than on June 1 last year and 59 per cent above the 5-year June 1 average.

Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Division Change

The Division of Fishery Industries of the Fish and Wildlife Service was renamed Division of Commercial Fisheries on July 1.

The new name more adequately reflects the work of the Division, which is entirely devoted to commercial fishing interests. A. W. Anderson remains as chief of the division and no organizational changes during the war are contemplated, it was stated.

Much of the work of the Commercial Fisheries Division is now concerned with the war due to the importance of fishery products in the war food program and in industry.

"The Division will actively continue work on its present wartime projects but it will also begin to study more closely the problems which the fishing industry will most likely face in the post-war period. The fishing industry has been deeply affected by the war and it is probable that its operations will be no less deeply affected by peace. Since the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries will disappear shortly after the war is over the Commercial Fisheries Division will be the only agency devoted exclusively to servicing the billion dollar fishing industry. We hope to develop and intensify the work of this Division so that it will be able to give the fishing industry prompt and accurate statistics, sound technical advice, and assistance on many problems in the production, processing, and marketing of fishery products," stated Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Service.

Wood-boxed Dried Fruit Priced

Dried apricots, peaches, pears and prunes sold by packers in wood boxes containing 25 to 30 pounds will be governed by the same dollar-and-cent ceiling prices, in terms of pounds, as those formerly provided for the dried fruit sold in 25-pound boxes, the Office of Price Administration said July 5 in issuing Amendment No. 4 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 475, effective July 10.

This minor change in the regulation controlling prices of dried fruits was made, OPA explained, because scarcity of the boards from which the wood containers are made has caused increased use of the larger size boxes.

An OPA study of packaging costs of several packers showed that little, if any, saving results from packing in the larger size box. Therefore, the agency has made no change in per-pound prices.

Fish Oil Set-aside Revoked

Because the present supply position of fats and oils is favorable, the War Food Administration has revoked War Food Order No. 60 under which the use and distribution of fish oil has been regulated since July 1, 1943. The revocation became effective as of July 3.

Principal provision of WFO 60, amended May 1, 1944, required fish oil producers to set aside one-third of their production for specified uses. Certified orders received by producers before July 3, still are valid and must be honored in accordance with the order's provisions. WFA authorizations to issue certified orders become invalid on the date of revocation with respect to all orders which have not been placed with a producer.

The fish oil order also has limited the use of seal oil and Pacific Coast herring oil, and has required manufacturers to fortify vitamin feeding oils to a minimum of 400 A.O.A.C. units of vitamin D per gram.

Vegetable, Fruit Dehydration Manual for Plant Operators

Practical results of research on the commercial dehydration of fruits and vegetables are given in detail in a new bulletin, "Vegetable and Fruit Dehydration," prepared by the Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This new publication, which is in the form of a manual for plant operators, deals with the commercial angle of dehydration. It contains more than 200 pages of reading matter and illustrations, and discusses the proper location of a dehydration plant, plant layout, storing and handling fresh fruits and vegetables, preparation of the raw material for dehydration, blanching, sulphuring, tunnel and cabinet dehydrators, source of heat, temperature controls, finishing bins, packaging, compression, dehydration, processing costs, and other things of interest to plant operators. It is a handy reference book, containing quickly found answers to the many questions that arise in connection with the establishment and operation of a dehydration plant.

"Vegetable and Fruit Dehydration, A Manual for Plant Operators," is the complete title of the new Miscellaneous Publication No. 540, which is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 30 cents.

OPA Amends Procedure Covering Price Regulation Protests

Amendments to Revised Procedural Regulation No. 1 controlling the procedure for making a protest against a price regulation were issued by the Office of Price Administration on July 3, 1944, to reflect the changes made by the Stabilization Extension Act of 1944.

The amendments are particularly designed to conform to the provision in the new Act which now permits a protest to a price regulation to be filed at any time. Formerly protests had to be filed within 60 days after issuance of a price regulation or after new grounds for protest had arisen.

The amendments continue the distinction between a protest against a price regulation and a protest against a denial of a request for an individual price adjustment. In the latter case, the new amendment provides that OPA may attack a protest against such a denial as being unreasonably delayed, if the protest is filed more than 90 days after denial of the requested individual price adjustment. No similar provision is made for protests against a price regulation.

Fibre Shipping Drums

Fibre shipping drums and pails have been placed under simplified controls with the revocation of Order M-313 and the issuance of Order L-337, the War Production Board announced July 1.

Ceiling Prices on Frozen Fillets Increased by OPA

Temporary increases in processors' ceiling prices on certain species of Pacific Coast frozen fillets by 1½ to 3½ cents a pound by a restoration of last summer's prices, have been made by the Office of Price Administration, in Amendment 18 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 364.

Frozen fish processors' present and new per pound prices on some of the fillet items follow:

Item	Present price	New price
Ling Cod fillet.....	\$23½	\$27
Rock Cod fillet.....	.23	.25
Petrale Sole fillet.....	.25½	.27
Other Sole fillets.....	.23½	.27

The processors' prices established in the OPA action, effective July 1, are the result of re-examination of prices established in a previous amendment on May 20, which reduced prices substantially, it was stated.